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For: ULTRASONIC WELDED :
CONNECTOR STICK :

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Robert J. Kapalka

RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

This communication responds to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated April 25, 2008.

A new section c(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter begins on the following page.

App. No. 09/963,720
Docket No. 17674

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The invention defined in independent claim 15 is a connector device which is shown in Fig. 8 as a connector stick or device 348 comprising a first connector 310 and a second connector 310 (specification at page 6, lines 24-26). Various embodiments of the connectors 310 are shown in Figs. 1-7 as connectors 10, 100 and 200. With reference to both the connector 100 shown in Figs. 4-5 and the connector 200 shown in Figs. 6-7, each of the connectors 100, 200 includes a housing 112, 212 having opposing sides 122, 124; 222, 224 (specification at page 5, lines 14-18 and page 6, lines 5-10). A conductive connecting device 142, 242 is mounted in the housing (specification at page 5, line 27 to page 6, line 4, and page 6, lines 17-23). Referring back to Fig. 8, at least one of the opposing sides of the first connector 310 is removably connected to one of the opposing sides of the second connector 310 by an ultrasonic weld 350 (specification at page 6, lines 26-28), whereby the first connector is separable from the second connector by breaking the ultrasonic weld such that the first connector forms an individual connector unit (specification at page 7, lines 8-12).

The invention defined in independent claim 26 is a connector stick device which is shown in Fig. 8 as a connector stick 348 comprising a plurality of connectors 310 (specification at page 6, lines 24-26). Various embodiments of the connectors 310 are shown in Figs. 1-7 as connectors 10, 100 and 200. With reference to both the connector 100 shown in Figs. 4-5 and the connector 200 shown in Figs. 6-7, each of the connectors 100, 200 includes a housing 112, 212 having opposing sides 122, 124; 222, 224 (specification at page 5, lines 14-18 and page 6, lines 5-10). A conductive connecting device 142, 242 is mounted in the housing (specification at page 5, line 27 to page 6, line 4, and page 6, lines 17-23). Referring back to Fig. 8, at least one of the opposing sides of each connector 310 is removably connected to one of the opposing sides of an adjacent connector 310 by an ultrasonic weld 350 (specification at page 6, lines 26-28), wherein each of the connectors is separable from its adjacent connectors by breaking the ultrasonic welds to form an individual connector unit (specification at page 7, lines 8-12).

The invention defined in independent claim 34 is a connector assembly which is shown generally in Fig. 8 as a connector assembly 348 comprising multiple electrical connectors 310 (specification at page 6, lines 24-26). Various embodiments of the connectors 310 are shown in Figs. 1-7 as connectors 10, 100 and 200. With reference to both the connector 100 shown in

Figs. 4-5 and the connector 200 shown in Figs. 6-7, each of the connectors 100, 200 includes a housing 112, 212 having opposing sides 122, 124; 222, 224 (specification at page 5, lines 14-18 and page 6, lines 5-10). The housings are joined to each other by respective ultrasonic welds 350 to form a connector stick (specification at page 6, lines 24-28, and Figure 8). Each of the housings holds a conductive connecting device 142, 242 (specification at page 5, line 27 to page 6, line 4, and page 6, lines 17-23). Each housing has at least one opening 128A, 128B, 228 for passage of electrical cabling to the conductive connecting device (specification at page 5, lines 18-26 and page 6, lines 10-26). Referring back to Fig. 8, the plurality of joined housings are separable from one another by breaking the respective ultrasonic welds as the cable is spliced to successive conductive connecting devices along the connector stick, thereby forming a plurality of individual connector units (specification at page 6, lines 26-28, and page 7, lines 8-12).

The invention defined in independent claim 39 is a method for splicing cable to a plurality of connectors. The method comprises steps of providing a plurality of individual connectors each including a housing 12, 112, 212 (specification at page 5, lines 14-18, Figs. 4-5, and page 6, lines 5-10, Figs. 6-7), a cable opening 28, 128A, 128B, 228 in the housing (specification at page 5, lines 18-26, Figs. 4-5, and page 6, lines 10-26, Figs. 6-7), and a conductive crimping device 140, 240 proximate the opening (specification at page 5, line 27 to page 6, line 1, Figs. 4-5, and page 6, lines 17-20, Figs. 6-7); joining the connectors to one another with respective ultrasonic welds 350 to form a connector stick 348 (specification at page 6, lines 26-28, Fig. 8); inserting cable into the opening of each joined connector, and securing the cable to each of the connectors using the conductive crimping device (specification at page 5, line 27 to page 6, line 1, Figs. 4-5, and page 6, lines 17-20, Figs. 6-7); wherein force generated in securing the cable to the respective connectors separates the respective connectors from the connector stick by breaking the respective ultrasonic welds, thereby forming a plurality of individual connector units each having a cable spliced thereto (specification at page 6, line 24 to page 7, line 12, Fig. 8).

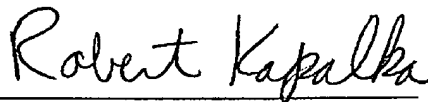
The invention defined in independent claim 41 is a method for splicing cable to a plurality of connectors. The method comprises steps of providing a plurality of individual connectors each including a first housing portion 118, 218 and a second housing portion 120, 220 movable relative to one another (specification at page 5, lines 14-18, Figs. 4-5, and page 6,

lines 5-10, Figs. 6-7), a cable opening 128A, 128B, 228 in one of the first and second housing portions (specification at page 5, lines 18-26, Figs. 4-5, and page 6, lines 10-26, Figs. 6-7), and a conductive crimping device 140, 240 in the other of the first and second housing portions (specification at page 5, line 27 to page 6, line 1, Figs. 4-5, and page 6, lines 17-20, Figs. 6-7); bonding the connectors to one another with respective ultrasonic welds 350 to form a connector stick 348 (specification at page 6, lines 26-28, Fig. 8), inserting cable into the cable opening of one of the joined connectors (specification at page 5, line 27 to page 6, line 1, Figs. 4-5, and page 6, lines 17-20, Figs. 6-7), and breaking the ultrasonic weld between the one connector and an adjacent connector while securing the cable to the one connector using the conductive crimping device (specification at page 5, line 3 to page 7, line 12, Fig. 8).

The invention defined in independent claim 42 is a stick of electrical connectors which is shown generally in Fig. 8 as a connector stick 348 comprising a plurality of electrical connectors 310 disposed side-by-side (specification at page 6, lines 24-26). Various embodiments of the connectors 310 are shown in Figs. 1-7 as connectors 10, 100 and 200. With reference to both the connector 100 shown in Figs. 4-5 and the connector 200 shown in Figs. 6-7, each of the connectors 100, 200 includes a housing 112, 212 having opposing sides 122, 124; 222, 224 (specification at page 5, lines 14-18 and page 6, lines 5-10). A conductive connecting device 142, 242 is mounted in the housing (specification at page 5, line 27 to page 6, line 4, and page 6, lines 17-23). Referring back to Figure 8, the connectors are joined together by respective ultrasonic welds 350 between adjacent housings, wherein the connectors are individually separable from the stick by breaking the ultrasonic welds to form individual connector units (specification at page 6, lines 25-28 and page 7, lines 8-12).

Respectfully submitted,

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